



Section 3: Route 9 to Somerset Reservoir

SNAPSHOT

This remote backcountry section of the CT offers varied terrain and scenic views of the Deerfield River, Mt. Snow, and Searsburg Reservoir.

LENGTH

7.3 miles (11.75 km)

DIFFICULTY

This entire section is ungroomed. It is generally flat, but there are a few steep ascents and descents as well as numerous small stream crossings. It is very remote with only one intermediate access point.

TRAIL ACCESS POINTS (south to north)

1. Lind Lane - Searsburg

Approximately 4 miles west of Wilmington, turn right off Route 9 onto Lind Lane, a paved, "No Outlet" road. The northbound CT heads into the woods just northwest of the parking area.

2. East Branch Trail - Searsburg

From Wilmington, go approximately 5 miles west on Route 9 across the Deerfield River to Somerset Dam Access Road. Turn right (north) and drive approximately 2 miles on the access road to a sign on your right for "NEPCO East Branch Trail." Ski across the Deerfield River on a footbridge and go north and then northeast on the East Branch Trail. Cross the East Branch of the Deerfield River on another footbridge, and join the CT after a total distance of approximately 0.4 miles.

3. Somerset Dam - Somerset

From Wilmington, go approximately 5 miles west on Route 9. Turn right (north) onto the Somerset Dam Access Road. Drive approximately 9 miles and park in a small parking area just west of (before crossing) the dam. Use caution here as there can be heavy snowmobile traffic in this area, particularly on weekends. To head north on the CT cross below the dam and follow the snowmobile trail about .5 miles along the east shore of the reservoir. To head south on the CT, leave the road at the east end of the dam by descending a steep bank.

NOTE: Because Somerset Dam Access Road can be icy and is not frequently plowed, studded tires or four-wheel drive is recommended.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION (south to north)

From the **Lind Lane cul-de-sac (0.0)** on the north side of Route 9, the CT heads north on an old logging road. After about half a mile, the road turns sharply to the right and heads uphill. At this turn, the CT leaves the road and goes straight into the woods to cross **Vose Brook (0.6)** via a bridge. The CT parallels the Deerfield River on an old railroad bed and passes the **Searsburg Dam spillway (1.7)**. Here the trail drops slightly in elevation and parallels the shore of Searsburg reservoir. The trail regains the old railroad grade and continues north along the river.

In about 0.3 miles, you will emerge from the woods into a small clearing to see the Searsburg Reservoir. The trail continues north, generally following the bank of the river on the old railroad grade. After passing the confluence of the main branch and east branch of the Deerfield River, continue straight (north) for roughly 0.2 miles.

BAIL OUT POINT: *Cross a bridge and notice the yellow blazed **East Branch Trail (2.6)** joining the Catamount Trail from the left. This trail is your last possible exit/access point for about 4.5 miles. It is about 0.4 miles from this junction out to the Somerset Access Road via the East Branch Trail.*

To continue north on the CT, cross the bridge and follow the blazes north. You will then cross several other bridges built by a VT Youth Conservation Corps crew. The trail eventually **leaves the old railroad bed (4.4)** and climbs up another shoulder, crisscrossing a stream several times. The ridge of Mt. Snow can be seen to the east along the way. The trail passes some beaver ponds and comes down another streambed. Climb steeply to emerge on the **Somerset Dam Access Rd. (7.0)** just below the dam. Turn left and cross below the dam to reach the **Somerset Dam parking lot (7.3)**. Be alert for snowmobiles.

DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS

Mileage Northbound	Landmark	Mileage Southbound
0.0	Lind Lane/Rte. 9	7.3
0.6	Vose Brook	6.7
1.7	Searsburg Dam Spillway	5.6
2.6	East Branch Trail Jct.	4.7
4.4	CT leaves old railroad bed	2.9
7.0	Somerset Dam Access Road	0.3
7.3	Somerset Dam Parking	0.0

SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS

The East Branch Trail intersects the CT approximately 2.6 miles from Route 9, providing an intermediate bail-out point or an alternative starting point. It is an approximately 0.4-mile ski from the East Branch Trail access point on the Somerset Dam Access Road to the intersection with the CT.

SHUTTLE DIRECTIONS

Please use caution and common sense when using these directions. Some roads may not have signs. After a heavy snow it may be difficult to locate the trailhead or end-of-plowing. Your GPS will not replicate all of these routes and may direct you to a road that is not plowed, closed and impassable. When in doubt, follow someone familiar with the local area.

Look for blue blazes (Catamount Trail), yellow blazes (Catamount Trail Side Trail) or CT parking signs which may be present. If the road seems impassible, park and explore on foot. Always park clear of access roads and gates. Leave room for others to park including snowmobile trailers. Do not park in snowplow turnarounds.

The location of the Catamount Trail on these maps is approximate. Temporary reroutes are not displayed. Always visit the Catamount Trail Association website for the latest trail information and maps. www.catamounttrail.org

Drive to Lind Lane (north to south)

1. From just west of Somerset Dam (S3 access point <3>), travel south on Somerset Dam Access Rd. (National Forest 71) for about 9 miles.
2. Turn left on Rte. 9 and go 0.8 miles.
3. Turn left on Lind Ln. (S3 access point <1>) and travel 0.5 miles to the plowed cul-de-sac. Do not block access to the propane tanks.

Drive to Somerset Dam (south to north)

1. From the plowed cul-de-sac at 1891 Lind Lane (S3 access point <1>) go 0.5 miles.
2. Turn right on Rte. 9 and go 0.8 miles
3. Turn right on the Somerset Dam Access Rd. (National Forest 71) and go about 9 miles. There is limited parking at a pullout marked by a CT trail marker on the right (east) side of the road about 30 yards before the road bears right as it approaches the dam (S3 access point <3>). Do not park at the maintenance shack. There is a parking lot beyond the dam but the access road is not reliably plowed.